The Lions' Pride

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IMA President & CEO Jeff Thomson Visits SLU

By Rebecca Hugh
Contributing Writer

The Saint Leo University Institute of Management Accountants (IMA) student chapter, in collaboration with Career Services, held an educational forum Feb. 13. Both parties were honored to welcome Jeff Thomson, the IMA President and CEO and industry professional, who came and spoke on the future of "The Accountant in Business: Leading in the Digital Age."

Thomson is recognized for his influence on the accounting profession, specializing in risk management and internal controls, and as an expert in management accounting. Apart from his impressive biography, he also culminated a plethora of certifications, such as CMA (R) (Certified Management Accountant), CSCA ® (Certified in Strategy and Competitive Analysis) and CAE (Certified Association Executive).

Since this was a part of Career Services' monthly webinar series, students and faculty had the option of viewing the event online.

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Photo by: Rebecca Hugh

As a token of appreciation, the members of the IMA student chapter presented Thomson with Saint Leo gear.

Photo by: IMA

Thomson says business is multidimensional, explaining that a part of evolving is the important role of data analytics. He says analytics is critical for success, and when it comes to interpreting data science, one must be inquisitive and exploratory.

Leo Love Week: Portraits of Love

By Keya Lockhart
Staff Writer

Roses are red; violets are blue, did you go out to paint night or hang out with your boo? Students waited eagerly for the doors of the Fine Arts Building to open on the evening of Valentine's Day for paint night, compliments of SGU. Conversations were buzzing from ear to ear, "I'm going to be a Michelangelo," "What if my painting comes out wrong?" "I'm just here for the fun of painting." When the art room opened, students were given a carbon sheet, and an outline of the schools' mascot, Fritz holding a balloon heart.

Students were excited to sit as paintbrushes, water cups, paint, a canvas and aprons were neatly set up on the table. Fears of not having artistic

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Photo by: John Hall

Many students found the time to paint a good way to unwind, while others used the opportunity to celebrate Valentine's with their loved ones.

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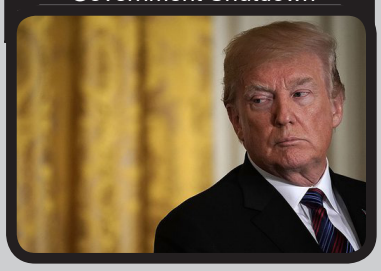
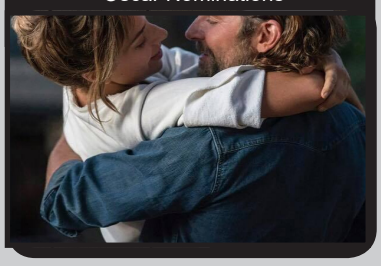
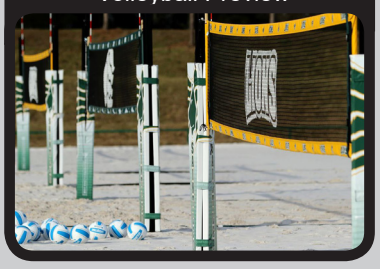


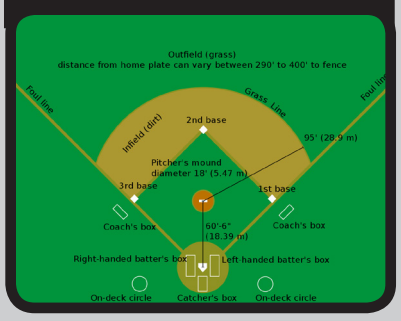
Oscar Nominations



Volleyball Preview



Rules of The Game: Baseball



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Editorials

What Makes A Dictator

By Travis Farmer
Editorial Editor

Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines a dictator as "one ruling in an absolute and often oppressive way." Common characteristics of dictators are their desire for utmost power, their fanatical supporters and their anti-media and anti-speech opinions.

President Trump finally announced that since he will not get budget funding for his border wall through the legislative branch, he will instead declare a national emergency and use emergent funds to build his wall. This essentially means that Trump is bypassing the legislative branch since he cannot get his way, despite holding a majority in Congress and will instead, pull from an emergency budget meant to be used for natural disasters, wartime and other emergencies.

But how is he able to do this? The 1976 law called the National Emergencies Act allows the president to access special powers during times of emergency for quick responses. For example, during a major hurricane, the president may declare a national hurricane to be able to quickly respond to the needs of the emergency. After the Sept. 11 attacks, George W. Bush declared a national state of emergency. At least, that is how it is supposed to be used. In this case, Trump is saying that there is an emergency at the border to justify what he is doing, but there is obviously not.

Has Trump ever heard of checks and balances? The legislative branch, executive branch and judicial branch are all supposed to keep each other in check. Apparently, Donald Trump is not a fan of this and instead, decided to just make the executive branch the most powerful.

However, despite Trump's power play here, it does not mean no one is speaking against it. According to an NPR poll, over six in 10 Americans disapprove of trump's move, with 94 percent of Democrats, 63 percent of independents and 12 percent of Republicans disapproving. But, Trump knows this. This is not a move that will gain Trump new followers; this is purely a move to make the Trump fanatics like him even more. As the Marist College poll director, Lee Miringoff said, "This is not a break-his-base issue, this is a reinforce-his-base issue, but this is not an expand-beyond-his-base issue."

However, the "emergency at the border" is not Trump's first sign of dictatorship. There are also the fact that he is notably very anti-press and has shown some tinges of being anti-free-speech. Trump has stated numerous times that the media and press are literally enemies of the people, with Trump even refusing to lower flags to half-mast at the White House after the Capital Gazette shooting in June 2018. A popular Trump supporter, Milo Yiannopoulos even wrote just a few days before that shooting that he "can't wait for vigilante squads to start gunning down journalists."

As for Trump's attacks on free speech, he has famously said that he wants to change libel laws to make it easier for people to sue newspapers that report "fake news" on them. Over the years, Trump has filed numerous libel lawsuits against numerous newspapers and media organizations and has never won one. Obviously, this is why he wants libel laws changed to his favor. Recently, Trump has even said he wants to have a law enforcement investigation into Saturday Night Live, just because they make fun of him sometimes. He has said Saturday Night Live is "the real collusion."

With all this though, there is always the possibility that Trump is playing the press. Whenever the Mueller investigation hits a new high or critical junction, it seems like Trump does something very ridiculous to get the news cycle to focus onto that instead. Right when one of Trump's associates gets arrested or charged, it seems like he always does something controversial, like announce he is banning transgender soldiers from the military or declaring a national emergency for the wall. It's almost like he is using outrage to cover the public's eyes to what is really going on, almost like a dictator.

With all this said, it is obvious that there is no national emergency at the border. The majority of drugs coming into the nation come from ports of entry, such as airports and shipyards. The majority of drugs consumed in America aren't even coming from other countries but are rather prescription opiates being produced by corrupt pharmaceutical companies. With this, it is easy to say that the true national emergency is Donald Trump himself.

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The "emergency at the border" is not Trump's first sign of dictatorship. There are also the facts that he is notably very anti-press and has shown some tinges of being anti-free-speech.

Campus News

Jeff Thomson

However, all other patrons reported promptly at 6 p.m. in TECO Hall.

Throughout his presentation, Thomson stressed highly on the value of stewardship and the future of automation. He expressed that we are in a pivotal crossroads where if we as individuals do not "upgrade" and expand professionally, then we will be left behind in the progressive world.

He says business is multidimensional, and Thomson explains that apart of evolving is the important role of data analytics. He says analytics is critical for success, and when it comes to interpreting data science, one must be inquisitive and exploratory in the data. Thus, because accounting is interdisciplinary, there is a wide range of opportunities in the accounting field.

And, Thomson implores students to understand that "differentiation is key." Also in order to set yourself apart, professional certifications are necessary.

"Firstly, we as accounting students, should look into differentiating skills, and opportunities such as: certifications and masters or doctorate degrees in different fields," said Kyshonna Bethel, the IMA Chapter President, and a junior majoring in accounting.

"As Jeff said, the earlier you can understand things like data analytics and strategic management the better because skills like these in combination with financial accounting knowledge opens a world of opportunities for an accountant. While it is important, it's not impressive if you can come up with the numbers; what's impressive is the 'why' and knowing the meaning beneath the numbers."

In closing, Thomson was well receptive, and students were highly engaged in asking questions. Towards the end of his presentation, he addressed ethical standards and the must for students to develop language, analytic and good communication skills. But, also how start-ups are essential for the future economy, and how even robotics and automation and be scalable to small businesses.

Photo by: Rebecca Hugh

"75-80 percent of people start out in audit, but then they find their way into business," said Thomson, as he explained his non-traditional avenue to his current position, but also the many opportunities the accounting profession can lead to.

Photo by: IMA

The Institute of Management Accountants is a professional membership organization headquartered in Montvale, New Jersey, United States, operating in four global regions: The Americas, Asia/Pacific, Europe, and Middle East/India.

Portraits

abilities vanished quickly as the atmosphere in the paint room was relaxing, and nostalgic love songs were played. Additionally, students loved how they were given an option to paint the Fritz sketch or make their own work of art.

Painting instructor, Nia, guided the students step by step on how to paint their portraits. She precisely educated students on how to mix colors and outline the portrait. So if you didn't learn about primary or secondary colors in elementary school, it was no worries at all. For those who still felt a bit of tension that their paintings would not come out as expected, Nia walked around the room and was excited to assist anyone in need.

Nia is the owner of the company called Amped Events, which she started in 2008. One of the aims of this company seeks to venture into various universities and assist students with paintings in a stress-free environment. She expressed that painting is a getaway and an opportunity to dismiss what stresses you and find relaxation in the arts.

Moreover, Nia stated that within this semester alone, she visited various universities such as Columbus State University in Georgia, The University of Miami, (which she has visited three times this semester), Florida International University and The University of South Florida. Nia described these painting classes as "Do It Yourself" because it's a stress-free activity and she's just there for guidance. According to Kurt Reso, the author of "How Painting Relieves Stress," there is a connection between painting and the reduction of stress levels. Furthermore, painting causes an increase in self–expression, and self-confidence and encourages individuals to express their artistic styles.

Cynnique Johnson, a senior bio-med major here at Saint Leo, described the event as a stress reliever. She expressed that every painting event at Saint Leo is always an enjoyable one. She also appreciated the tranquil atmosphere as she painted along with her friends and sang along to love songs from the '90s. Most students at the event enjoyed the option of painting other designs or to paint the sketch of Fritz the Lion with him holding a heart balloon.

Karliya Rahming, a junior marketing major at Saint Leo, stated that she loved how Fritz was incorporated into the painting because it depicted school spirit. As it was her first time at a painting event, she said that the music allowed her to de-stress and focus on her painting which kept her calm while painting and communicating with friends. Kierra Gordon, a junior English major, was stunned at her painting and expressed that each time there's a painting event, it gets better; she enjoyed how Nia described step by step how to incorporate various colors and give precise outlines to the portrait.

Painting allowed many students the opportunity to tap into their artistic skills, while some discovered that they lacked any skills, but were happy to be involved.

Photos by: John Hall

Lifestyle

Sparkman Wharf: Tampa's New Hotspot

By Zoe Dmuchowsky
Staff Writer

Sparkman Wharf is an exciting and brand-new outdoor waterfront destination in Tampa! Opening only last year, this location is very young. Located only 40 minutes from Saint Leo, Sparkman Wharf is an ideal spot for your next weekend getaway!

Here at the Wharf, there are so many things to do and see. Located along Garrison Channel in downtown Tampa, is the scenic location of the park where many events are held year-round. Picture a warm, breezy day on the water in the park with all kinds of live music playing around you and plenty of opportunities to have some fun! Along with the warm weather, there's craft beer for those who can drink and exceptional dining! Every few weekends, live music is offered all weekend long.

The Wharf has a very modern twist throughout and looks to be ideal for our generations and the college scene. The overall look of the massive outdoor park is industrial and modern meets eco-conscious millennial design. I love the grass field they have, and the feel is similar to that of a large park that you would go to as a child.

As far as finding a good bite, check out Gallito Taqueria, owned and operated by chef Ferrell Alvarez. At Gallito Taqueria, you can find modern taco combinations and unique twists on typical Mexican street food. I feel like this restaurant matches the area the best and helps to share the surrounding culture. Here, like all restaurants at the Wharf, you order your food at the window, and then you can choose to sit wherever you want. Whether it be somewhere on the big green lawn or near their large seating selection throughout, you'll be sure to find the perfect spot to enjoy your tasty findings!

Along with the exceptional food and wide variety of choices, Sparkman Wharf has its own bowling alley, Splitsville. Like everything at Sparkman Wharf, there is a modern twist. Here they have lawn and feather bowling, ping pong, billiards, foosball, darts, shuffleboard and giant outdoor chess. With all these activities, you are sure to find your niche.

So, go check out Sparkman Wharf! There are so many exciting things to do there, and you can get connected to our nearby community of Tampa. I would recommend going on the weekend as that is when they have their three-day live music days! Get a bite here and explore all the unique choices they have to offer as well as indulge in the overall atmosphere of this newfound entertainment venue!

Photo credit: @sparkmanwharf
Sparkman Wharf recently opened last November and is a cool new spot near Tampa!

Photo credit: @sparkmanwharf
Check out Sparkman Wharf for a cool treat to enjoy while strolling the park.

Photo credit: @sparkmanwharf
Relax and unwind from a long day's work here at the wharf!

The Lions' Pride Weekly Word Search

Sparkman Wharf

R	C	B	L	W	N	T	O	W	L	F	Q	M	M	S	Z	H	K	O	Z	H	W	A	O	A	K	P	T	E	Q
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National

Effects Of The Government Shutdown

By Tamali Smith

Contributing Writer

Photo taken the @thehill

There have been 21 government shudowns in history of the United States government, with the most recent being the longest in history. The most recent was the third shutdown during the Donald Trump presidency and it began when funding for nearly a quarter of the federal government ran out.

On the Dec. 22, 2018, the United States government had a major shutdown. The 34-day shutdown was regarded as the longest shutdown which is currently temporarily open until Feb. 15, 2019.

On February 15, 2019, President Trump signed a comprehensive Homeland Security spending bill to avert another government shutdown. However, the bill provided less than what Trump requested. The bill provided $1.375 billion for 55 miles of new border fencing instead of the requested amount of $5.7 billion for 234 miles of new solid steel walls. At this same time, Trump declared a national emergency redirecting $3.5 billion from the Department of Defense's military construction budget to the construction of new border wall, according to Thoughco.

Although the government has opened up for three weeks, the initial shutdown has had numerous effects on the country which affected government workers, essential and non-essential. Simply put, a government shutdown occurs when Congress cannot enact a funding resolution. In this case, this was due to the funding of the border wall between the U.S. and Mexico. In retrospect, Republican president Donald Trump and his administration requested $5.7 billion to fund the border wall between Mexico and the United States. Since two government entities could not compromise in Congress, this led to the shutdown.

When interviewed about the shutdown, Mr. Frank Orlando, an instructor of political science, mentioned the term "zero-based budgeting." Zero-based budgeting at the federal level refers to making sure that all expenses are accounted for every period. With this, the government must be funded every period. Without funding, the government could not operate to cover all its expenses. Orlando lamented on the fact that this money doesn't just carry over from previous years.

"If the government is not funded each period, this can lead to major things like the current situation of the shutdown. Every year Senate and Congress are tasked with passing a budget," stated Orlando.

With over a month of the government shutdown, this affected the country and its people. It led to employees being absent from work and federal workers, who were deemed essential workers, not getting paid for work done. Essential employees, according to Orlando, refers to those persons who have important roles and duties within the country whereby if they don't work, then there would be some type of chaos. An example would be TSA workers at the airports. To prevent chaos in airports, they are deemed as essential workers. Orlando commented on the legal framework behind these continued operations of workers not getting their paychecks.

"Essential workers have to work during times of a shutdown without pay. This is a law that they are aware of before they were qualified for their jobs. On the other hand, non-essential employees don't go to work if they are not getting paid. The effects are tumultuous on both essential and non-essential workers. They miss car payments, mortgage bills, healthcare bills and utility bills. It is also severe to the point where workers cannot fund their everyday lifestyle. This sometimes affects their children who have to attend school on a daily basis. Constituents were also under pressure as well," replied Orlando.

Before the government shutdown ended, the continuance of it had negative impacts on the Republicans and president Trump.

"With the three weeks opening of the government, the Republicans have given in which seems like a victory for the Democrats. The Republicans are losing their faith in Trump on delivering the wall," said Orlando. "The poll also states that the Republicans were the cause of the shutdown. This may be the reason why they decided to cut their losses and agree to open the government back up."

Maddison Bonnell, a junior majoring in theatre arts spoke when interviewed about the effect of the shutdown and how it impacted her life.

"I was not directly affected by the shutdown; however, my family was affected by it," Bonnell said. "My dad, who works for the government, was working without pay."

Bonnell lamented on the fact that her family lifestyle had to change radically for them to survive. This included trying to maintain bills with no income coming in from her father's job.

"It also facilitated a lot of stress. My parents had to be wondering how best to allocate the money for each of their bills. Careful planning and tracking of finances were important during the shutdown." Bonnell also mentioned that her father started looking into entrepreneurship for income. "He decided to go into candle making," Bonnell commented.

While many persons focused on persons not getting paid for work done, there is also another effect: National Security. Former FBI agent and current instructor of criminal justice, Charlotte Braziel mentioned that essential workers, such as agents are needed to maintain order in society. The country was and is still in danger due to the opening of security breaches when there is a government shutdown. Braziel recounted the stressful period she had undergone in 1995.

"This 1995 shutdown started in Christmas time and lasted for 21 days. Government employees were like pawns in a game. They had to work during the time of the shutdown without pay because governments could not compromise," replied Braziel.

She compared this to that of a tunnel vision where funding was cut off not only in salaries but also in government operations and national security.

"The cause of the 1995 shutdown was due to the budget not being approved to take care of Medicare, education and environment and public health," Braziel mentioned. "Due to the fact that I was single and without kids, it was not as demanding for me. However, I did get stressed out when I saw that I would not be able to get paid. On the other hand, the lower staff agents who had lower income and had to work, went through tumultuous stresses. FBI agents could not pay their sources and so investigation, crime and domestic took longer to solve."

Also, while essential employees get paid eventually after the shutdown, contract workers will not be compensated. When asked about the effects of the shutdown, Braziel gave a plethora of effects, such as the insecurity and unpredictability of the unknown. Despair among persons in the workplace, health issues such as depression and anxiety were also prevalent. Aside from all those effects, the current shutdown creates a level of mistrust in the government. Braziel also mentioned that there would be no need for a shutdown if both governments found a way to resolve the matter. They can do this by communicating and compromising.

Photo taken @sputnik

The House Speaker Nancy Pelosi was a prominent figure during the government shutdown as she opposed Trump and the funding he asked for the border wall.

Arts & Entertainment

The Academy Awards: Who Will

By Madison Whatley and Bernard Ramos

Arts & Entertainment Editors

Best Picture

Black Panther

BlacKkKlansman

Bohemian Rhapsody

The Favourite

Green Book

Roma

A Star Is Born

Vice

BR: This category is actually a really tough one because almost all these movies are loved and have been recognized for each of their own ways. "Black Panther" came out topping the box office. This show movie showed diversity and feminism. The special effects were stunning. "Roma" was released with a limited theater release but once it was on Netflix, it received acclaim everywhere. This movie has been known as being a masterpiece and stunning. "A Star Is Born" has been taking the nation once the trailer of Lady Gaga singing "Shallow" has been released and has many other awards. Although all of the other movies are amazing, these three dominate. I predict "Roma" will win.

MW: I would like for "Green Book" to win because the film was heartwarming. Based on a true story, it had humor, history and love. However, "A Star is Born" or "Black Panther" will probably win because those two films have been dominating the awards this season. I recognize that "A Star Is Born" is a beautiful piece of art, but I would still choose "Black Panther" between the two of them. The story was unique, and the special effects were fantastic. "Black Panther" definitely deserves an Oscar.

Actor in a Leading Role

Christian Bale, *Vice*

Bradley Cooper, *A Star Is Born*

Willem Dafoe, *At Eternity's Gate*

Rami Malek, *Bohemian Rhapsody*

Viggo Mortensen, *Green Book*

BR: Right away, I just need to say Bradley Cooper did an amazing performance in "A Star Is Born," but I believe if this was for Best Director, he deserved the award. Between Christian Bale and Rami Malek, it's a toss-up. Christian Bale is an award-worthy actor. He turns into the character he is portraying. In "Vice," he transformed into Dick Cheney, making viewers forget he's the actor Christian Bale. Rami Malek another amazing actor convinces the world he is Freddy Mercury in the band Queen. He brings Freddy Mercury back to life making viewers believe he is performing on stage for everyone one more time. I predict the winner will be Rami Malek.

MW: Rami Malek should win because his performance was absolutely identical to that of Freddy Mercury. He brought the story to life for a new generation, and he did justice to it. In interviews, Malek comes off very humble. He was honored to play the role, and you can tell that, in the film, he is wholly dedicated to the part. I did feel like Viggo Mortenson did a great job of playing a tough Italian family man who develops a soft side in "Green

Photo by @starisbornmovie

"A Star Is Born" has been taking over since it came out in 2018. It has been recognized for Bradley Cooper's directing, Lady Gaga's acting and the well-performed songs.

Photo by @spiderverse

"Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse" has been nominated for Best Animated Feature. This is the first time Spider-Man has been portrayed by an African American and Hispanic.

Arts & Entertainment

Take Oscars Home This Sunday?

Book," but his performance still does not hold a candle to Rami Malek.

Actress in a Leading Role

Yalitza Aparicio, *Roma*

Glenn Close, *The Wife*

Olivia Colman, *The Favourite*

Lady Gaga, *A Star Is Born*

Melissa McCarthy, *Can You Ever Forgive Me?*

BR: I already predict that the Mexican actress Yalitza Aparicio will be winning this award. The beauty and grace she brings into her role in "Roma" are stunning especially for a first major role and no training in acting. Words cannot explain the exceptional performance she put on for this film, and you will just have to watch the movie for yourself. Congratulations to her for being the first Indigenous woman and second Mexican actress to ever be nominated for the Leading Actress nomination.

MW: Lady Gaga is likely to win for "A Star Is Born." A lot of people might say that it would just be a gimme due to the success of the film, but I feel that Gaga truly deserves it. It's clear that she is a true artist who dedicates herself completely to her art, and this film shows her versatility.

Animated Feature Film

Incredibles 2

Isle of Dogs

Mirai

Ralph Breaks the Internet

Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse

BR: I might be unbiased, but I truly did not enjoy "Incredibles 2," and it will never live up to the first movie. I did not like it, but others did, making it a huge success in the box office and it has a rating of 93 percent on Rotten Tomatoes. As an animated film, the detail and graphics are breathtaking, where you can see why it took so long for the movie to be created. "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse" was popular and loved by viewers and critics. The movie has a great plot, characters and animation that will just blow your mind. If you aren't a huge fan of superhero movies, this is a must watch because it brings action and comedy with a great storyline. I predict "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse" will be the winner.

MW: "Incredibles 2" was my favorite, but I predict that "Isle of Dogs" will win. "Isle of Dogs" is held in high esteem by critics, although I personally did not enjoy it. "Incredibles 2" was an experience that really pulled me in and made me laugh. It's hard to create a sequel to an animated film so many years later that adults and kids can connect to, but I think they did a great job. Other movies that have tried much later sequels, such as "Mary Poppins," have flopped, so I think "Incredibles 2" deserves some credit for that.

Visual Effects

Avengers: Infinity War

Christopher Robin

First Man

Ready Player One

Hans Solo: A Star Wars Story

BR: All of these movies are great in their own way but between "Avengers: Infinity War" and "Ready Player One" this is a tough decision. "Ready Player One" takes viewers on a journey inside a video game. Watching the movie, it makes you feel like you stepped into a virtual reality ready to play a game. The design and graphics for this movie are insane and makes you wish you were in the movie. "Avengers: Infinity War" is another movie that's filled with action-packed visual effects that will leave everyone off their seats. Between the fight scenes and Wakanda, this will make the movie a winner.

MW: "Christopher Robin" was really beautifully done in my opinion. I would love to see it win an Oscar. Although the movie was a little slow to some, it was worth every minute of nostalgia and heartwarming fun to watch Christopher Robin as an adult reconnect with Pooh and the gang. A lot of the other nominees are action movies, but I think that effects can be done fantastically without being flashy.

Photo by @yalitzaAparico

Yalitza Aparico is the first Indigedious and second Mexican Actress to ever be nominated for the Leading Actress. This is her first film with little training and experience in acting.

Photo by @DisneyCRobin

"Christopher Robin" has been nominated for Best Virtual Effects. It is a must-see movie, especially for those who grew up loving Winnie the Pooh.

Sports

Rules of The Game: Baseball the Age Old American Sport

By John Hall
Editor-in-Chief & Layout Editor

Initially known as "Rounders", the sport of baseball can be traced back to 1744 in a children's book titled "A Little Pretty Pocket-Book." The book is considered one of the first children's books ever produced and was marketed to children of the time by including a ball for boys and a pincushion for girls.

The sport of Rounders, needless to say, has been around since the 18th century and parallels much of today's baseball rules. Points or "rounders" were awarded to a team when a teammate made a complete round in a counter-clockwise motion around three bases after striking the ball.

The player would be considered out, if while running to the bases, they were tagged/touched by a person in the field, if the base they were running towards was tagged or if the ball that was struck was caught mid-air by anyone in the field.

The sport migrated from England and Ireland into the United States and since then has become America's beloved past-time. The rules have changed over the years from the Knickerbocker (New York style) and the Massachusetts style rules that were established in America.

The most basic rules revolve around the use of tools that include but are not limited to: mitts, a bat, and a baseball.

The mitt, also called a glove, is worn by those players in the infield which include the first through third bases and shortstop (in between second and third base). Also included wearing mitts are the outfield players that are

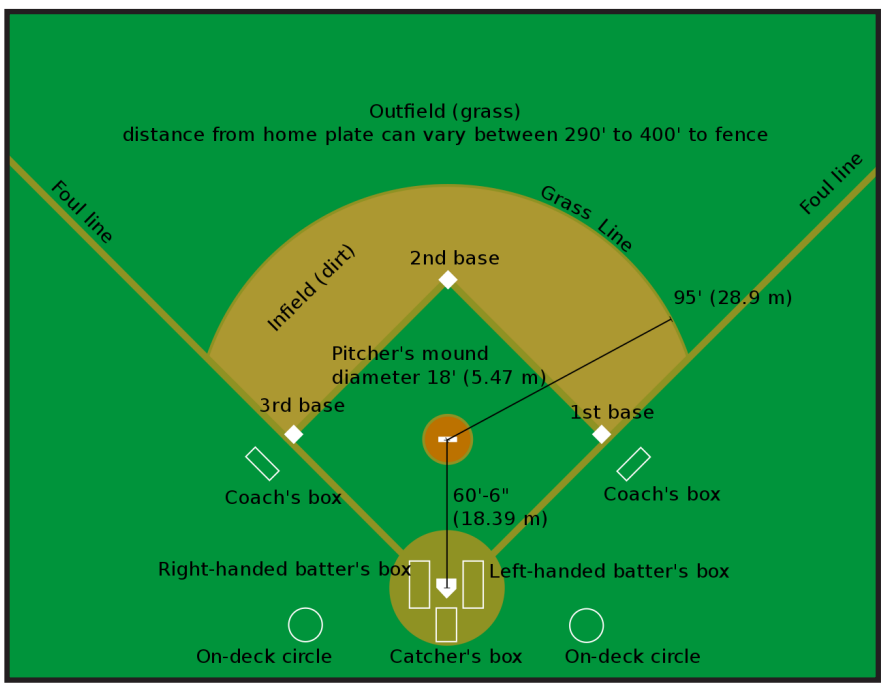

Photo credit: @howstuffworks

Hitting the ball and safely reaching first, second and third base, qualifies as a single, double and triple consecutively. When three teammates are on each base and another comes up to bat, commentators classify this as the bases being loaded.

situated at the left, right and center field position. Their positions are defensive in nature, attempting to catch the ball mid-air or throwing the ball towards the base a runner may be running towards.

The bat can be either wooden or metal depending on the league the game is being played in and is used to hit the ball as far as possible. Hitting the ball allows the batter to run towards the bases in an effort to make it back to the home plate. Striking the ball out of the confines of the park or making it back to home plate classifies as a "home run" for the batter, scoring a point for the team.

Hitting the ball and safely reaching first, second or third base, qualifies as a single, double or triple consecutively. When three teammates are on each base, and another comes up to bat, commentators classify this as the bases being loaded. If successful in their batting attempts with bases loaded, the team can receive up to four runs, one for each member that comes back to the home plate. Hitting the ball to the extreme right and left of the foul line classifies as a foul ball, and the player must bat again.

If any of the opposing team catches the ball mid-air with their mitts or tags and touches the batter and or base they run towards with the ball, that player is out and must return to their dugout. Three outs for the team qualifies the team to turn over possession of the offensive position (batting) as they assume the defensive role of being in the field. Batting can be done "bunt-style" holding the bat out front in an attempt to hit the ball lighter, subsequently making a run for the bases.

There are a total of nine innings (compared to four quarters in football, or the 10 frames in bowling) where each team has a chance to score as many runs as possible before receiving three outs.

Head Coach for baseball at Saint Leo University Richard (Rick) O'Dette, spoke on the mantra of the University's baseball team stating, "Our coaching staff really emphasizes the mental side of the game and 'riding the middle' throughout the season."

O'Dette continued, "Baseball has a long season and calls for mental toughness. If our men ride the emotional roller coaster it will take a lot out of them; if we can have them give consistent effort throughout practice and games, we should always be prepared for what is thrown at us."

Looking at the uniqueness of the program here at Saint Leo and the strength of the team when asked about the driving force O'Dette said, "We preach the family aspect of our team and that our men buy into our system as well as each other. Whenever our men break the huddle, they break it down to "FAMILY" and they believe in one another through all events and have each other's backs. Having a strong team culture is what we are trying to create for years to come, we try to prepare our players to be the best men they can be for life after baseball."

As baseball season is underway O'Dette emphasized, that we can look forward to the team, "putting the best product on the field that represents the University properly."

Don't Miss These Baseball Games
Feb:22 Lynn @Saint Leo 6 p.m.
Feb:23 Lynn @Saint Leo 1 & 4 p.m. (Double-Header)

Looking for Improvement: Beach Volleyball Preview

By Christopher Daniello
Contributing Writer

2018 spring semester was another huge leap for Saint Leo University as they added a new sport, beach volleyball. The sport was in popular demand mainly because of the atmosphere it brings, and because volleyball is an already popular sport on campus. Last season had some growing pains for the new team as they had a 5-10 record and they didn't record any wins at home. The teams they played just seemed to be more experienced rather than more talented because of how different it is to play on sand. This was a surprise to most since the beach team roster mirrors that of the very talented women's volleyball team.

The 2017 and 2018 women's volleyball team posted an incredible 40-22 record going 14-6 at home. This team took its talents to the sand; however, the field of play was just too different. The sand makes it harder to move and jump, and it took its toll on the team as they struggled through the regular season. The new 2019 season has nothing but positive vibes for the Lions as they look to make their second season a very successful one.

The Saint Leo beach volleyball team will be away in Deland, Florida to participate in the Stetson Spring Fling tournament. This tournament will be their first regular-season competition of the year where will face four different schools in the tournament spanning both Friday, Feb. 22 and Saturday, Feb. 23. The competition for the Lions on these first two days of competition will be Florida International University and Stetson University on Friday, with Eckerd College and Georgia State University on Saturday. The Lions' first home game will take place March 6 against UT- Martin at 2 p.m. at the still new sand courts across from the tennis facilities on University Campus.

Hopefully, with the inaugural season behind them and with more experience entering year two, this team can come out and have a major turnaround in 2019.

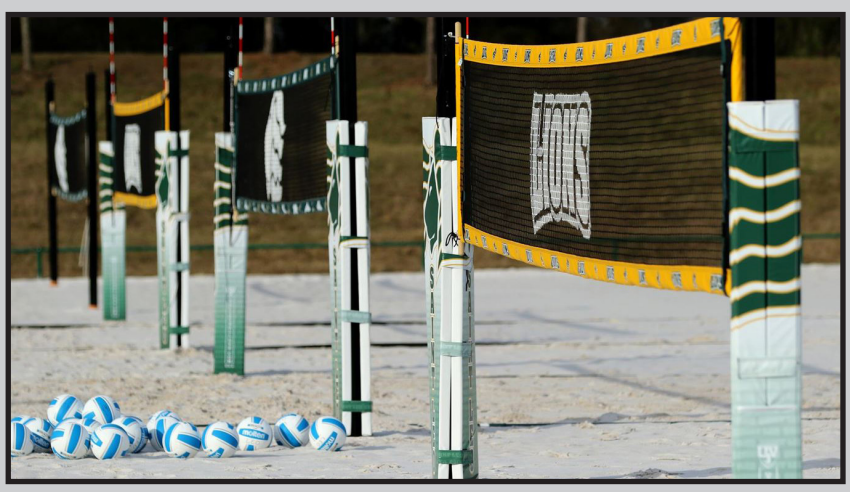

Photo credit: SaintLeoLions.com

The regular season for the Saint Leo beach volleyball team will begin with the Stetson Spring Fling Tournament Feb. 22 and Feb. 23 in DeLand, FL.